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APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CONFIRMATION NO. 10/790,027 03/02/2004 John A. Giordano 48508-00014 9737 23767 7590 11/03/2005 **EXAMINER** PRESTON GATES ELLIS & ROUVELAS MEEDS LLP CHOI, FRANK I 1735 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW, SUITE 500 WASHINGTON, DC 20006 ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER 1616

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 1616

## SUSPENSION OF ACTION

The terminal disclaimer filed on 10/4/2005 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of US Patent No. 6,814,983 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded. As such, all claims are allowable. However, due to a potential interference, *ex parte* prosecution is SUSPENDED FOR A PERIOD OF SIX(6) MONTHS from the date of this letter. Upon expiration of the period of suspension, applicant should make an inquiry as to the status of the application.

## Conclusion

A facsimile center has been established in Technology Center 1600. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8:45 AM to 4:45 PM. The telecopier number for accessing the facsimile machine is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frank Choi whose telephone number is (571)272-0610. Examiner maintains a flexible schedule. However, Examiner may generally be reached Monday-Friday, 8:00 am – 5:30 pm (EST), except the first Friday of the each biweek which is Examiner's normally scheduled day off.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Mr. Gary Kunz, can be reached at 571-272-0887. Additionally, Technology Center 1600's Receptionist and Customer Service can be reached at (571) 272-1600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). FIC

October 28, 2005

SREENI PADMANABHAN SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

BRUCE KISLIUK, DIRECTOR
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600